

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS22460C1

This legislation is intended to add to and improve the Board's grounds for denying or disciplining a nursing license found at Section 54-1413, Idaho Code.

As currently written, the Board's disciplinary statute allows the Board to deny a license or discipline an existing license when the applicant or licensee has had a nursing license suspended or revoked in another jurisdiction; however, the statute does not expressly permit the Board to take action when another form of discipline has been imposed. To more fully protect the public, the legislation broadens the statute to authorize the Board to impose discipline when any type of formal disciplinary sanction has been imposed on a license applicant or licensee in any other jurisdiction. These changes are consistent with the Uniform Licensing Requirements of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing that have been endorsed by the Idaho Board of Nursing.

Finally, to address a recent court decision holding that the Board's disciplinary authority was insufficient to permit discipline of a nurse for sexual misconduct, this legislation expressly adds sexual misconduct or sexual exploitation by a licensee as specific grounds for discipline. If passed, the legislation will be followed by Board promulgation of appropriate rules defining the terms and otherwise implementing the statutory amendment.

FISCAL NOTE

None.

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